



02 April 2025

## END OF TERM - INFORMATION FOR ALL YEARS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of term, I would like to update you on some school matters which are relevant to all year groups.

### End of Term

We break for the Easter holidays at 1:30 pm on Friday, 04 April. We will be celebrating the forthcoming Easter season with our Easter Service at St Mary's church from 12:15 pm. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. School busses have been arranged to pick-up from church at 1:30 pm. Any pupil who is in receipt of a Free School Meal will be able to pick this up at breaktime.

All staff and pupils return for the summer term on Tuesday, 22 April at the usual time.

### Uniform Expectations

For the summer term, jumpers will no longer be a compulsory part of our school uniform, although pupils can of course continue to wear them if they so wish.

Whilst many pupils will be wearing earrings and make-up during the holidays, please can you remind your child that on their return after Easter, such items will again not be allowed, and if seen will be asked to be removed / confiscated. Likewise, skirts are still expected to be knee-length and not rolled-up in any way. Finally, with the exception of individual medical cases, black shoes are required for all pupils, not black trainers.

Similarly, excellent attendance is the cornerstone of any child's education. Working closely with families has meant that St Mary's is above national averages for secondary school attendance. This is great credit to all involved, and we hope this continues into the summer term. All children should be in school, on time, every day and only severe ailments should be used as a reason to stay off school. Recent research has shown that missing just 10 days in a school year can affect GCSE outcomes by around 50%. Please see this government article for more details:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/03/why-school-attendance-matters-and-what-were-doing-to-improve-it/>

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

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## **Free School Meals**

Once again, the government have provided funding for schools to be able to provide Free School Meal vouchers for eligible families over the Easter holidays. If you feel that you are eligible for these vouchers, but have not received them, please do contact school through the usual means.

## **Y11 Revision Room**

As we approach the start of the Year 11 final exams, we will open a quiet after-school revision room solely for Year 11 pupils. This will be based in the Library, and will provide an opportunity for quiet study. It will be open on a Tuesday and a Thursday from 3:15 to 4:15pm, and light refreshments will be made available to aid study. Please note, the quiet study area is not replacing revision sessions held by subject specialists, or the existing revision timetable.

## **Arbor**

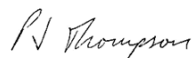
After Easter, school systems will be migrating to a new programme, Arbor. Further separate details will be sent out to parents soon, but Arbor will provide a single-use application to staff and parents, so that access to information regarding merits, homework, attendance, trips, medical details etc. will all be on one platform. We will be writing to parents early in the summer term with more updates on how you can use the system, but we are hopeful that Arbor will provide one single point of access to all your child's school record.

## **Staffing Update**

This Easter we say goodbye to Mr Butler, our 2<sup>nd</sup> in Science, who leaves to take-up a similar role at a school in Fulwood. Our school Business Manager, Mrs Woods, and our Curriculum Leader for PE, Mrs Addison-Jones have both recently gone on maternity leave and have been replaced by Mrs Boe and Mrs Akers respectively. You may also have seen on our social media streams that one of our long-standing kitchen assistants, Jean Anderson, has also retired after 34 years of service at the school! We wish all our colleagues mentioned the very best for the future.

As the end of term approaches, I would like to thank you all for the continued support you offer, it means a great deal to know we are united in wanting the best for your child. Please remember in your prayers our Year 11 pupils as they complete final preparations before starting their GCSE exams. We hope that their hard work and effort is rewarded. Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors, may I wish you and your family a restful, happy and Holy Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Thompson  
Headteacher